

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Hideo TODOKORO, et al.  
SERIAL NO. : (Con. of 09/477,060)  
FILED : (Herewith)  
FOR : SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE  
GROUP : 2881 **Conf. No. 8661**  
EXAMINER : David A. Vanore

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the application, please enter the following amendments.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Before the first line, insert: --This is a continuation of application number 09/477,060 filed 3  
January 2000, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

**Page 7, line 8:** After "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" delete "OF THE PREFERRED  
EMBODIMENTS".